

APP40092: Towards Toddlerhood: reframing toddlers and their development through the arts

Check application

Status: **SUCCESSFUL**

Application

Application reference

APP40092

Application name

Towards Toddlerhood: reframing toddlers and their development through the arts

Applicant

Abigail Hackett

Organisation

Sheffield Hallam University

Application status

Successful

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Successful

Towards Toddlerhood: reframing toddlers and their development through the arts

1. Details

Summary

How can arts practice generate critical conversations with, and alternative understandings of, toddlerhood?

Young children have historically been, and continue to be, considered through the lens of 'development'. That is, with an emphasis on childhood as a series of transitional stages measured by generalisable, linear progress against age, physical and cognitive abilities. Important within 'development' are 'milestones' that signify 'normal' development or prompt intervention to correct the trajectory. 'Development' has become such a dominant **context** for thinking about toddlers, that it is often viewed as natural or common sense.

The lens of development can exclude or marginalise many communities, particularly multilingual and diverse families. Developmental theories were evolved originally with white, middle-class, western children in mind. As a result, working-class and racialised families or those with disabled or neurodivergent children, are more likely to be viewed as inadequate or in need of fixing. Viewing toddlers predominantly as 'developing' risks denying the complexity and variety of young children's lives. Children may be subject to lower expectations, or families may experience heightened surveillance within 'developmentalist logic'. This project will **address this challenge** by widening debates about how 'development' situates different children differently and what the alternatives, such as a post-developmental lens, can offer.

A newly established network will hold six workshops across South Yorkshire, Manchester and north London, bringing together 1) arts practice 2) interdisciplinary research from humanities and social science and 3) the voices of children, families and practitioners. The **aim** is;

to ignite new conversations between arts practice, academics and practitioners working with toddlers, interrogating why and how development can exclude and marginalise.

The project has **three objectives**:

1. Convene six workshops within museums and community arts spaces, enabling an arts-led, cross-disciplinary conceptualisation of toddlerhood, with particular attention to the research-practice nexus.

Each workshop will be themed around a topic that significantly impacts on daily life of toddlers, and that is generally understood through the lens of development: sleeping, feeding, movement, tantruming and language and communication. Researchers, artists and practitioners will work collaboratively with arts practice to question

assumptions and consider how else these themes could be understood. Workshop participants will **benefit** from increased understanding about toddlerhood, including alternatives to a developmental lens.

2. Produce empirical materials in collaboration with families at three early years settings regarding key themes of toddler development.

Families will make, explore and discuss the themes (sleeping, feeding, movement, tantruming, communication) using activities from the workshops as a starting point. What families produce will return to the next workshop, creating a two-way dialogue between the workshops and families. In this way, families’ voices will shape research-practice discussions, the **benefit** of which will include a new appreciation of the complexity, expertise and abilities of toddlers.

3. Author and launch a report for policy makers and stakeholders regarding the potential of post-developmental views of toddlerhood to inform how families are engaged and supported.

The project will **inform practice and policy** by making visible alternative approaches for supporting families and communities, within for example, education, health, and community engagement.

Start date

January 2025

Duration

24 months

2. Core team

Name	Role	Organisation
Abigail Hackett	Project lead	Sheffield Hallam University
Dr Jill Pluquailic	Project co-lead (UK)	Sheffield Hallam University
		Sheffield Hallam University
Rachel Holmes	Project co-lead (UK)	Manchester Metropolitan University

Name	Role	Organisation
Jayne Osgood	Project co lead (UK)	Middlesex University

3. Discipline classification – primary

Application question

Please provide the primary research area of your proposal.

You must select only **one** of these research disciplines.

This information will be used for the purposes of processing your proposal and in the selection of appropriate assessors. The research disciplines are:

- archaeology
- area studies
- classics
- cultural and museum studies
- dance
- design
- development studies
- drama and theatre studies
- education
- history
- human geography
- information and communication technologies
- languages and literature
- law and legal studies
- library and information studies
- linguistics
- media
- music
- philosophy
- political science and international studies
- social anthropology
- theology, divinity and religion

- visual arts

Visual arts

4. Discipline classification – secondary

Application question

Please describe, using keywords, the research area of your proposal and where relevant the approach, time, or geographical area.

This will further help with the selection of appropriate assessors.

The imperative for our research question lies in primarily visual arts, specifically community and socially engaged arts as a mode of rethinking. An interdisciplinary lens will bridge museum studies, cultural history, children's geographies, performing arts, dance, ethnography, anthropology, and linguistics to rethink how education and health practices conceptualise toddlers.

5. Vision

Application question

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

Explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the fields or areas
- has the potential to advance current understanding, or generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context, and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

- identify the potential direct or indirect benefits and who the beneficiaries might be

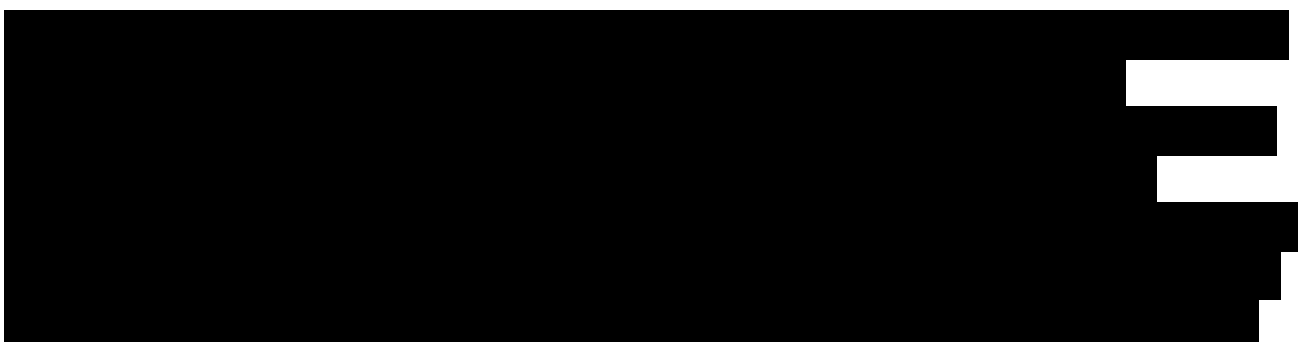
Within this section you can also demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant.

You must:

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
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Files must be:

- in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format
- be smaller than 5MB



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6. Approach

Application question

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

Explain how you have designed your approach so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives
- is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
- uses a clearly written and transparent methodology (if applicable)
- summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed (if applicable)
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how your, and if applicable your team's, research environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work

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7. Applicant and team capability to deliver

Application question

Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work

- the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community

The word count for this section is 1,500 words: 1,000 words to be used for R4RI modules and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format to showcase the range of relevant skills you and, if relevant, your team (project and project co-leads, researchers, technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how this will help deliver the proposed work. You can include individuals' specific achievements but only choose past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the R4RI module headings listed. Use each heading once and include a response for the whole team, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI \(https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/resume-for-research-and-innovation-r4ri-guidance/#:~:text=UKRI%20committed%20to%20adopting%20a,UKRI%20throughout%202022%20and%202023.\)](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/resume-for-research-and-innovation-r4ri-guidance/#:~:text=UKRI%20committed%20to%20adopting%20a,UKRI%20throughout%202022%20and%202023.). You should consider how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills each team member brings:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

As a minimum, all named members of the Leadership Team should be discussed within this section of the form.

If references or citations are deemed appropriate, these should be included within the section's word limit. We would advise you not to include hyperlinks, as assessors are not obliged to access the information they lead to or consider it in their assessment of your application. If you are linking to web resources, to maintain the information's integrity, include persistent identifiers (such as digital object identifiers) where possible. You must not include links to web resources to extend your application.

Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe

additional skills, experiences, or outputs, but you can use it to describe any factors that provide context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

Complete this as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service. For full details, see [Eligibility as an individual](https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/) (<https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/>).

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8. Project partners

Project partner	Contact	Direct contribution	Indirect contribution
Clifton Park Museum Rotherham, UK			
Manchester Art Gallery Manchester, United Kingdom			
Horse and Bamboo Rossendale, UK			
Grimm and Co Rotherham, UK			

9. Project partners: letters (or emails) of support

Application question

Upload a single PDF containing the letters or emails of support from each partner you named in the Project Partner section.

Enter the words 'attachment supplied' in the text box, or if you do not have any project partners enter N/A. Each letter or email you provide should:

- confirm the partner's commitment to the project
- clearly explain the value, relevance, and possible benefits of the work to them
- describe any additional value that they bring to the project

- be no more than two sides of A4 per partner

Save letters or emails of support from each partner in a single PDF no bigger than 8MB.

Ensure you have prior agreement from project partners so that, if you are offered funding, they will support your project as indicated in the contributions template.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

Do not provide letters of support from host and project co-leads' research organisations.



10. Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Application question

What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how you will manage these considerations

If you are collecting or using data, identify:

- any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security

and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies to not preclude further re-use of data

- formal information standards with which your study will comply

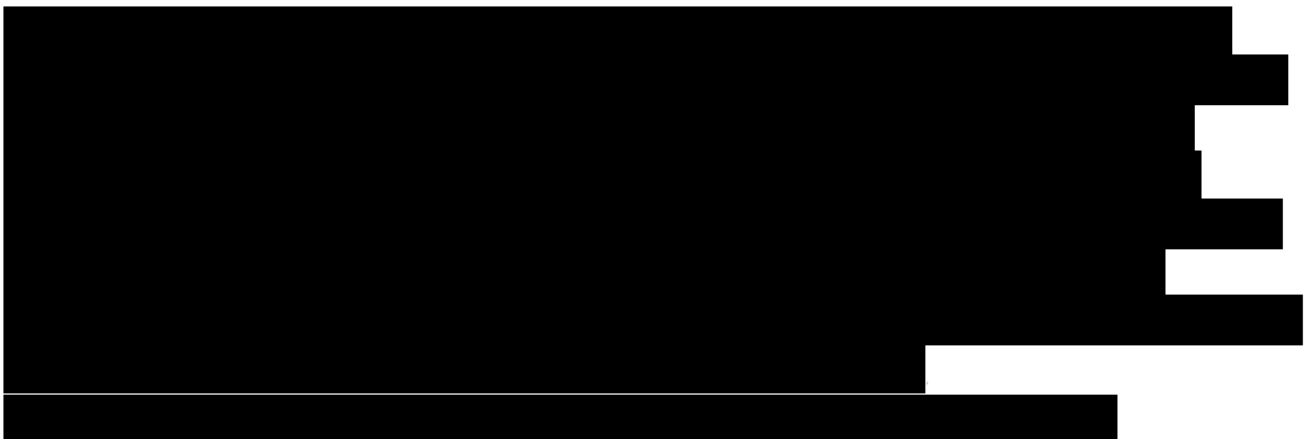
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11. Resources and Cost

Total full economic costs (fEC)

£99,923

Total contribution from applying organisation(s)

£19,984.67

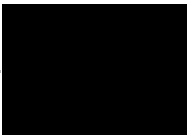
Total funding applied for

£79,938.66




Directly allocated

Cost categories

Category	Applied for
Staff	[REDACTED]

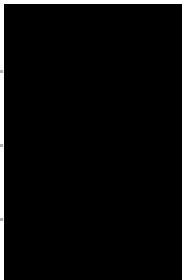
Category	Applied for
Estates	
Other	

Staff breakdown

Name	Role	%FTE
Jayne Osgood	Project co lead (UK)	
Rachel Holmes	Project co-lead (UK)	
Abigail Hackett	Project lead	
Dr Jill Pluquailic	Project co-lead (UK)	
		

Directly incurred

Cost categories


Category	Applied for
Staff	
Equipment	
Travel and subsistence	
Other	

Staff breakdown

No staff for this category

Indirect

Cost categories

Category	Applied for
Indirect costs	

Staff breakdown

No staff for this category

Exceptions

Cost categories

Category	Applied for
Staff	
Equipment	-
Travel and subsistence	
Other	-

Staff breakdown

No staff for this category



Justification of resources

The total fEC cost of this proposal is £99,924. The grant requested from AHRC is £79,938.



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